

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 18-41 are active in this application. Support for the activities recited in the claims is supported in the specification on page 10, lines 6-11 and page 42, first paragraph. Support for Claims 27-41 is found in Claims 6-14 and the specification as originally filed. The specification at page 6 has been amended to include the title "Brief Description of the Drawings." No new matter is added.

With respect to Claims 31-37, Applicants request that upon finding that the elected claims are allowable, corresponding non-process claims be rejoined (M.P.E.P. § 821.04).

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Mertz for the courteous discussion granted to the Applicants' undersigned representative on May 14, 2003. During this discussion the Examiner confirmed that the 112, first paragraph rejections could be obviated by including a functional activity in the claims. Accordingly, the claims as amended herein define a peptide as one in which it exhibits IL-2 or β -chain binding activity and/or lymphocyte stimulatory activity. As a result, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is requested.

To address the rejection of Claims 16 and 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have been addressed by amendment.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in a condition for allowance.

Early notification of such allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,518



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220